

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE

This application is the US national stage filing of International Application No. PCT/DE2004/01472 filed July 8, 2004, which claims priority to German patent application no. 103 31 625.6 filed July 12, 2003.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to a Targa roof system for a vehicle, as well as a vehicle equipped with a Targa roof system.

Please add the following new section heading after paragraph [0001]:

BACKGROUND ART

Please add the following new section heading after paragraph [0004]:

SUMMARY

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

This object is solved ~~with the features of claim 1~~ by a Targa roof system for a vehicle including a roof part for spanning a compartment between a cross member, including the upper side of a windshield, and a traverse cross beam, which transversely spans a vehicle inner compartment and is spaced from the cross member. Two guide rails preferably extend from the roof to the vehicle floor and each guide rail is disposable on a side of the vehicle in the area underneath the traverse cross beam. A guide device is preferably disposed on each side of the roof part in the rear area thereof. The guide device preferably facilitates an upward pivoting of the roof part about its rear area and a subsequently lowering into the vehicle inner compartment by sliding the guide elements along the guide rails. Furthermore, each guide device preferably includes two guide elements fixedly attached in the rear area of the roof part. The guide elements are preferably spaced from each other in the longitudinal direction of the roof part, so that the roof part is pivotable at each of the two guide elements, which oppose each other with reference to the vehicle width, from its closed position and is subsequently lowerable downwardly guided along the guide rails into a stowed position by the forward guide element and the rear guide element without pivoting relative to the guide rails.

Please replace paragraphs [0008]-[0011] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0008] In a more preferred Targa roof system, the forward guide elements are pivotably borne at an axis on lateral longitudinal cross beams, which are affixed to the vehicle, for pivoting the roof part. In this case, when the roof part is upwardly pivoted, the rear guide elements preferably move downwardly in the guide rails by pivoting the guide rails about respective linkages located at the floor area of the vehicle.

[0009] In another preferred Targa roof system, rail pieces are pivotably borne at the axis on the side cross beams and the forward guide elements are slidably and latchably held on the rail pieces. Even more preferably, the guide pieces preferably abut the guide rails when the roof part is fully upwardly tilted, so that the guide elements are movable away from the guide pieces and into the guide rails.

[0010] In another preferred Targa roof system, the guide rails preferably are pivotable together with the roof part into an abutment position when the roof part has been lowered into the stowed position. In another preferred Targa roof system, a forward area of the roof part is transparent.

[0011] In a preferred aspect of the present teachings, a vehicle includes a roof system according to any of the above-described aspects. More preferably, in such a vehicle, traverse cross beams are removable on both sides of the roof part after opening of the roof part.

Please add the following new section heading after paragraph [0011]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following new section heading after paragraph [0021]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

A flat roof part 10 extends from the cross member 4 of the windshield frame to the traverse cross beam 8, which ~~the sides of the~~ flat roof part 10 laterally abuts on ~~abut~~ respective longitudinal cross beams 12; the traverse cross beams 12 connect the side pillars 2 and/or the cross member 4 with the traverse cross beam 8.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

The rear guide element 22 projects into a guide rail 24; the guide rail 24 is pivotably guided at hinge 27 ~~[sic, 28]~~ in the vehicle inner compartment on both sides of the vehicle body close to the vehicle body floor 26. The forward guide element 20 is designed as a slide block that is, in the position shown in Fig. 1, non-slidably held by means of a latch 30 on a rail piece 32; the rail piece 32 is pivotable affixed on the longitudinal cross beam 12 so as to pivot about an axis 34 (for more detailed illustration, see Fig. 3 to 6).

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 shows a cut-out view of the assembly according to Fig. 1, in which the latch 30 has been released by means of the grip 17 and the roof part 10 has been upwardly tilted. As is apparent, the roof part 10 is upwardly tilted about the axis 34. When upwardly tilting the roof part 10 about the axis 34, the rail piece 32, which is borne on the longitudinal cross beam 12, pivots in the clockwise direction together with the ~~slide~~ slidable block-shaped guide element 20, which is affixed to the bracket 18 and latched to the longitudinal cross beam 12. As a result, the guide element 22 slides in the guide rail 24 with simultaneous pivoting of the guide rail 24 in the counter-clockwise direction about the hinge ~~27-*[sic]*, 28~~, until the guide rail 24 comes into abutment with a stopper part 36 that projects from the rail piece 32.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 5 shows the assembly according to Fig. 4 in a further upwardly-tilted position of the roof part 10, wherein in the position shown in Fig. 5 the stopper part ~~30-*[sic]*, 36~~ abuts on the guide rail 24, so that the guide rail 24 is brought into line with the rail piece 32 and further upward tilting of the roof part ~~14-*[sic]*, 10~~ is not possible. In this state, the rail piece 32 is latched with the guide rail 24 by means of the latch 30 and simultaneously the slideability of the guide element 20 ~~on~~ along the guide rail ~~32-*[sic]*, 24~~ is enabled, so that the ~~latch-*[sic]*, guide~~ element 20 can move away from the rail piece 32 and into the guide rail 24.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

Starting from the state, in which the rail piece 32 is latched with the guide rail 24, the roof part 10 can not be further tilted relative to the guide rail 24, because it is held, secured from tilting, above the guide elements 20 and 22. The roof part ~~14-*[sic]*, 10~~ can now be lowered in a well-defined manner along the guide rail 24 from the position shown in Fig. 7 to the position shown in Fig. 8, until the guide element 22 abuts on an abutment defined on the lower end of the guide rail 24 (Fig. 9). In this stowed position, the roof part 10 has moved to underneath the traverse cross beam 8 in the vehicle inner compartment, so that it can be tilted, together with the guide rail 24, in the clockwise direction about its hinge 28 (detailed view in Fig. 11) into an abutment position shown in Fig. 10; in this abutment position, the compartment behind the back rest 6 is only minimally narrowed by the roof part ~~14-*[sic]*, 10~~.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

The latching of the position of the guide rails ~~between~~ by latching the rail piece 32 ~~and to~~ the guide rail 24 can be automatically released when the roof part 10 arrives in its stowed position shown in Fig. 9 or can be manually de-latchable.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

The abutment position shown in Fig. 10 can be latched via the grip ~~16~~ ~~[sic, 17]~~ provided on the roof part 10, which is conveniently accessible. In this latching process, pins can extend laterally out of the roof part 10 and engage in corresponding recesses in the traverse cross beam 8. In the alternative, the latching can also take place ~~with~~ using the latch 30.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

When the roof part ~~14~~ ~~[sic, 10]~~ is located in the abutment position shown in Fig. 10, the view towards the rear in the middle area of the inner compartment is possible due to the transparent area 14 of the roof part 10, so that the view towards the rear through a not-shown rear window accommodated in the traverse cross beam 8 and through the roof part 10 is not restricted. In particular, the view through an inside rearview mirror towards the rear is not restricted.